

INTRODUCING The Town of Granby Waste Reduction Program



*Keep Granby clean one bag at a time.
Go green, stay clean.*

Q: What is the Waste Reduction Program all about?

A: The Waste Reduction Program is about decreasing trash, increasing recycling and reducing costs. It provides an incentive to increase waste diversion and recycling, and is a more equitable system for sharing costs. Households that generate more trash will pay more.

Q: Why did the Select Board adopt this new Waste Reduction Program?

A: The Granby landfill is scheduled to close in the spring of 2013. The landfill closure forces our town to change the way we handle and fund our solid waste program. Historically—for many years—the Town has enjoyed free disposal costs for all of the trash generated in Granby because of a host benefit contractual arrangement with Waste Management. That agreement changed in January 2011 in preparation of the landfill closure. Since that time, the Town has been charged a fee of \$65.23 for every ton of Granby trash disposed of at the landfill. This new program will help to reduce the amount of trash and will generate revenue to fund that disposal cost.

Q: How does the Waste Reduction Program actually reduce trash?

A: The Town of Granby Waste Reduction Program uses a unit-based pricing system as an incentive to encourage residents to reduce their waste. The more you throw away—the more you pay. By simply reducing, recycling, reusing and rethinking, folks can and will reduce trash and their cost. Data from the 135 communities in Massachusetts that have similar programs demonstrate time and time again that towns with a unit-based pricing system reduce their waste each by 20-35 %. This amount of waste reduction is possible in Granby.

Q: When will the Waste Reduction Program begin?

A: Granby's new Waste Reduction Program will begin on February 7, 2012. The bags will be available in local retail stores a week or two before the start date.

Q: What changes will be made at the Transfer Station?

A: The only thing that will change is that as of February 7, 2012 all trash brought to the transfer station must be placed in an official, Town of Granby blue trash bag.

Q: What will remain the same?

A: The hours of operation, handling and fees associated with white goods and other bulky items as well as an annual landfill sticker fee, will still apply.

Q: Who will enforce the Waste Reduction Program rules?

A: The monitors at the transfer station will be watching for official, Town of Granby blue trash bags at the trash dumpsters as well as watching for contaminants at the recycling dumpsters. They will be answering questions and helping residents adjust to the new program. We expect that residents will understand that this change was necessary and that it really is the fairest approach to reducing trash and costs for the town.

Q: Will this new program cost me more money?

A: The annual landfill sticker cost for a residential vehicle has been reduced from \$35 to \$25. Disposing of one 33 gallon bag per week would total \$1.75 x 52 weeks = \$91 for one year of trash disposal. Those generating less trash may choose to use the smaller 15 gallon bag which will cost \$.90/bag.

Q: What will the new bag look like?

A: The official Town of Granby Waste Reduction Program trash bags will be very distinctive, printed with the Town's seal on the side. The bags will be royal blue, available in two sizes (33-gallon or 15 gallon), drawstring, 1.5-milliliter bags sold in sleeves of 5. Waste Reduction Program instructions will be included as an insert in each packet of bags.

Q: How much weight can the bags hold?

A: The bags have a drawstring closure and are designed to hold about 30 pounds of waste in the 33-gallon bag and 15 pounds in the smaller bag. The bags must be tied securely for disposal. (No materials can be sticking out of the bag).

Q: Do other cities and towns in Massachusetts have Waste Reduction programs?

A: Yes! Currently, there are about 135 municipalities in Massachusetts with waste reduction programs similar to ours. In our region, about 46 towns have a financial incentive-based waste reduction program including Hampden, Northampton, Wilbraham, Amherst, Greenfield, South Hadley, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow and Shutesbury.

Q. What are the benefits of increasing recycling and reducing trash?

A: Our tracking data shows that the town of Granby has a recycling rate of about 12%, well below the State's average. Every ton we recycle saves the town about \$65 and generates revenue from the Springfield MRF of about \$35/ton. Reducing waste and increasing recycling saves the town money. If we reduce our trash by 20% with the new Waste Reduction Program, the Town of Granby would save about \$72,000 each year. Recycling is using resources over and over, which saves the air and water from pollution, saves money and creates a more sustainable environment.

Q: Will there be an increase in illegal dumping?

A: Statistics from other towns all over the country have not shown an increase in illegal dumping by adopting a pay by the bag system.

Q: Where and when can I purchase the official Town of Granby blue trash bags?

A: The official Town of Granby blue trash bags will be sold at 7 local retail locations and will be available by mid-January 2012. The stores include the two Big Ys in South Hadley, BP Gas Station, Center Pharmacy, Granby Country Grain, as well as Town Hall and the Council on Aging. The bags will come in packets of 5 bags for \$1.75 a bag (\$8.75/packet for the 33 gallon bag) or \$.90/ a bag (\$4.50/packet) for the 15 gallon bags. There is no store markup or tax collected on the bags.

Q: What do I do with bulky items?

A: The Granby Transfer Station can handle many types of bulky waste. Scrap metal, appliances with or without Freon, furniture, carpets, mattresses, fluorescent light bulbs, electronics, TV's & Computer Monitors. Fees must be paid at the Select Board's office at Town Hall before bringing the materials to the Transfer Station. A complete list of approved bulky items and disposal costs can be found on the Town's website at www.granby-ma.gov and at Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex.

Q: Where can I get more information on the program?

A: If you have questions about Granby's new Waste Reduction Program, call the Select Board at 413-467-7177 or visit the town's web site at www.granby-ma.gov.

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rethink